UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1984/NGO/7
9 July 1984

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Second regular session of 1984

Agenda item 3

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY, INCLUDING REGIONAL AND SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

Statement submitted by the International Savings Bank Institute, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated to the members of the Economic and Social Council in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

Savings and international development co-operation

The International Savings Bank Institute (ISBI) regularly informs the international community on the fundamental role of savings, and practises a progressive policy of decentralization with regard to development co-operation activities by the savings banks.

Having repeatedly stressed the importance of savings in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the various General Assembly resolutions on the subject, 1/ ISBI is endeavouring regularly to organize international projects for the increased mobilization of savings in developing countries and their use for the benefit of the rural and urban populations.

Set up in 1924 to promote savings and protect savers, ISBI is now represented world-wide: it has 116 members in 75 countries - 27 in Africa, 19 in the Americas, 10 in Asia, 49 in Europe and 11 in Oceania. Through its diversity, ISBI is increasingly associating local and national institutions with various programmes so as to enable its members to participate in the preparation and implementation of all ISBI activities of direct concern to them.

1/ See E/1983/NGO/4 of 7 July 1983.

GE.84-63462

The Institute regularly organizes meetings all over the world - for example, the 23rd General Assembly of ISBI, which was held at Bangkok, and the 14th World Congress of Savings Banks, which took place at Singapore in April 1984. Moreover, as part of its activities for development co-operation by savings banks, the Institute now has a special unit (the Development Co-operation Co-ordination Unit) and a world network of savings institutions constituting an infrastructure of skills and local administrative support services which is essential for the implementation of its various programmes. These programmes are drawn up in consultation with the Institute's regional bodies for Africa (African Advisory Group), for Latin America (Latin American Savings Bank Group) and for Asia and the Pacific (Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific). These bodies have been established to strengthen regional consultation and co-ordination and enable ISBI to organize activities providing an optimum response to the specific requirements of rural and urban populations.

In order to plan its development co-operation activities as part of an integrated programme of international co-operation for the mobilization of savings in the developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations, ISBI has formulated an International Programme of Co-operation for Savings and Development, the first phase of which is to take place between 1985 and 1987. The main objective of this programme is to enhance the professional skills of all supervisory and other staff of savings institutions with a view to providing new and improved savings and credit services to the rural and urban populations in developing countries.

In order to obtain this objective, ISBI is organizing in-service training schemes, courses, bilateral subregional and regional seminars, and a special programme for the study and systematic dissemination of the results of each project.

In addition to these activities, the Institute deals with such areas as organization, automation, international transactions, marketing, advertising, staff training, information, and technical and financial assistance.